

AGENDA



Thursday, May 3, 2007

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 4

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the State of Texas Energy Conservation Office (SECO) for grant funding in the amount of \$15,000 to extend the City's involvement in the Clean Cities program with funding from May 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

Amount and Source of Funding: Grant funding is available from the State of Texas Energy Conservation Office. No match is required.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Ester Matthews, Director, Austin Climate Protection Plan / 322-6041; Fred Blood, Sustainability Officer / 482-5340

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.

Prior Council Action: 4/14/94 – Resolution established City of Austin as a member of a regional Clean Cities program; 2/15/01 – Accepted \$50,000 grant to establish the Central Texas Clean Cities Program; 7/11/02 – Accepted \$25,000 grant; 01/30/03 – Accepted \$25,000 grant; 07/31/03 – Accepted \$40,000 grant; 11/04/04 – Accepted \$17,500 grant; 4/28/05 – Accepted \$20,000 grant; 01/12/06 – Accepted \$23,500 grant; 02/01/07 – Council approved \$10,000 grant, but SECO suspended action and replaced with this new Interlocal / grant.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) created the Clean Cities program in an effort to create local public/private partnerships to promote the use and purchase of alternative fuels by increasing public awareness. At the request of the DOE and the State of Texas Energy Conservation Office (SECO), the City of Austin is the administrator and fiduciary agent for the Central Texas Clean Cities Program.

In addition to increasing public awareness, the City is responsible for recruiting stakeholders for the Central Texas Clean Cities Coalition from the federal government, local governments and the private sector. The United States has 90 Clean Cities coalitions, six of which are in Texas. The Central Texas Clean Cities (CTCC) coalition includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties and Ft. Hood in Killeen Texas.

This grant will be used to continue funding for one full-time Conservation Program Specialist at Austin Energy to coordinate the program. The grant period will be from May 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008. The Conservation Program Specialist will coordinate the CTCC coalition's regularly held informational meetings, events and gatherings. In addition, the specialist/coordinator will facilitate the mission of the CTCC, which includes:

- Creating new jobs and commercial opportunities
- Facilitating alternative fuel vehicle production and conversion
- Expanding local alternative fuel infrastructure
- Increasing the use of alternative fuels
- Developing a "clean corridor" (I35 for central Texas)
- Increasing public awareness
- Advancing clean air objectives

- Supporting regulated fleets

Approval of this Interlocal does not obligate or prohibit the City from funding the program in future years.